

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:PCOLLINS:MHB
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:WSHINN, JR.
EUR/RPM:AMB. BENNETT
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TAGS: NATO, APER

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF AMBASSADOR BENNETT

REF: CLAUSSEN-COLLINS TELECON

1. HONORABLE W. TAPLEY BENNETT, JR., OF ATHENS, GEORGIA, WAS NAMED UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO NATO IN APRIL 1977. PREVIOUSLY, HE SERVED CONCURRENTLY SINCE APRIL 1971, AS DEPUTY UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND AMBASSADOR ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE ALSO WAS UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL (1966-69) AND TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (1964-66).

2. AMBASSADOR BENNETT WAS BORN IN GRIFFIN, GEORGIA, ON APRIL 1, 1917. HE RECEIVED A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA IN 1937, AND WAS ELECTED TO PHI BETA KAPPA. HE DID GRADUATE WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG, GERMANY, IN 1937-38, AND IN ADDITION HOLDS A DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREE FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE STATE BAR OF GEORGIA. INDIANA
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STATE UNIVERSITY HAS BESTOWED ON HIM THE HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF CIVIL LAW. HE HAS BEEN NAMED DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS BY THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA AND BY THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES HE STUDIED IN EUROPE.

3. AMBASSADOR BENNETT JOINED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1941, AND SERVED IN SANTO DOMINGO AND PANAMA. IN 1944, HE VOLUNTEERED FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY. HE WAS IN THE ARMY FROM 1944 UNTIL 1946, FROM PRIVATE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT, WITH SERVICE IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA. HE SERVED ON THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE FOUNDING CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1945.

4. AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR HE HELD VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE INCLUDING THE POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOUTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS. AFTER STUDYING AT THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE IN 1954-55, HE SERVED TWO YEARS AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND IN 1957 WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN VIENNA AS COUNSELOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS. IN 1961, HE WENT TO ROME AS COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY AND THEN WAS NAMED DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AT ATHENS WITH THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER. HE HAS ALSO LECTURED ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AS AMBASSADOR-IN-RESIDENCE AT THE AIR UNIVERSITY, MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE. DURING HIS RECENT SERVICE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, HE HAS HEADED U.S. DELEGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN CAPITALS AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

5. AMBASSADOR BENNETT IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER MARGARET RUTHERFURD WHITE, WHO WAS BORN IN NEW YORK. THEY HAVE FIVE CHILDREN, TWO SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS.

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